

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Funding for the Conservation Loan Program; Farm Loan Programs

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is no longer accepting direct or guaranteed loan applications for the Conservation Loan (CL) Program because of lack of program funding.

DATES: Effective May 13, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Connie Holman, (202) 690-0756. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audio tape, *etc.*) should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) (Pub. L. 110-246) authorized the new CL Program. The CL Program was implemented on September 3, 2010, when FSA added the CL Program provisions to the existing direct and guaranteed loan regulations found in 7 CFR parts 761, 762, 764, 765, and 766 through the publication of the CL Program interim rule (75 FR 54005—54016). CL funds, when available, can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaption of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques, or technologies.

This notice announces that FSA is no longer accepting direct or guaranteed loan applications for the CL Program

due to lack of funding. However, conservation projects for authorized loan purposes may be funded through FSA's direct and guaranteed Farm Ownership and Farm Operating Loan Programs for eligible applicants.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Potential direct loan applicants should contact their FSA State or county office; potential guaranteed loan applicants should contact their lender. Office locations can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. A notice will be published in the **Federal Register** announcing the date FSA will resume accepting direct and guaranteed loan applications for the CL Program if funding becomes available.

Signed on: May 9, 2011.

Bruce Nelson,

Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 2011-11783 Filed 5-12-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the emergency provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Title: Broadband Subscription and Usage Survey (Supplement to Census Bureau's Current Population Survey).

OMB Control Number: 0660-0021.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Emergency submission (revision of a currently approved information collection).

Number of Respondents: 54,000.

Average Time per Response: 10 minutes.

Burden Hours: 9,000.

Needs and Uses: NTIA proposes to add 52 questions to the U.S. Census Bureau's July 2011 Current Population Survey (CPS) in order to gather reliable data on broadband (also known as high-speed Internet) use by U.S. households. President Obama has established a national goal of universal, affordable

broadband access for all Americans.¹ To that end, the Administration is working with Congress, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and other stakeholders to develop and advance economic and regulatory policies that foster broadband deployment and adoption. Current, systematic, and comprehensive data on broadband access and non-use by U.S. households is critical to allow policymakers not only to gauge progress made to date, but also to identify problem areas with a specificity that permits carefully targeted and cost effective responses.

The need for comprehensive broadband data has become more crucial. On February 10, 2011, during a speech in Marquette, Michigan, the President announced his "national wireless initiative," calling for extending the next (4G) generation of wireless service to 98 percent of the country over the next five years. The Government Accountability Office (GAO), NTIA, and the FCC recently issued reports noting the lack of useful broadband data for policymakers, and Congress passed legislation—the Broadband Data Improvement Act in 2008 and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009—wholly or partly in response to such criticisms. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has ranked the United States low in the number of households with broadband access over the past several years despite a period of rapid growth in the technology's penetration. The OECD looks to Census data as an important input into their inter-country benchmark analyses. Modifying the July 2011 CPS to include NTIA's requested broadband data questions will allow the Commerce Department and NTIA to inform the President's new wireless initiative, respond to Congressional concerns and directives, and work with the OECD in analyzing more recent data.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Frequency: Once.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Nicholas Fraser, (202) 395-5887.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by

¹ See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/20091217-recovery-act-investments-broadband.pdf> (last viewed May 11, 2010).